

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-18 are pending and rejected.

Claims 1, 5, 7, and claim 12 are amended. Claims 19 and 20 are added. Claim 12 is amended to add another of synchronizing the status message signal by delaying transmission of a signal requesting the status generator to generate the status message signal. Support for this feature can be found, for example, on page 10, lines 1-5, and FIG. 2.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Responsive to the rejection of claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 5,686,954 ("Yoshinobu") in view of US 6,424,790 ("Ishii"), applicants have amended claim 5 to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that applicants regard as the invention and submits that claim 5, and dependent claims 6-10, are patentable over both references.

However, applicants respectfully disagree that claim 1 is not patentable over both references because neither reference discloses or suggests generating and displaying a status message indicative of an "operating mode" of a digital reproducing apparatus, as recited in claim 1. However, in the interest of advancing the prosecution, applicants have also amended claim 1 to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that applicants regard as the invention, and submit that amended claim 1, and dependent claims 2-4 and 11-28 are patentable over the two references. Please note that claims 11-28 directly or indirectly depend from claim 1 not from claim 5 as implied in the Office Action.

Following the sequence discussed in the Office Action, claims 5-10 are discussed first.

Amended claim 5 recites a receiving device receiving and decoding compressed digital video signals, said receiver device comprising:

a receiving means for receiving and selecting between a first compressed digital video signal from a network source and a second compressed digital video signal and a display message data signal from a local source;

a decoder coupled to said receiving means for decoding said selected one of said first and second compressed digital signals to form a video signal;

control means coupled to said receiving means for controlling selection between said first and second compressed digital video signals, and responsive to selection of said second compressed digital video signal, receiving said display message data signal; and
means for combining a stored message signal representative of said display message data signal with said video signal decoded from said second compressed digital video signal to generate a combined video signal for display.

Support of the underlined feature can be found, for example, on page 9, line 27-page 10, line 11.

As admitted in the Office Action, Yoshinobu does not disclose or suggest combining means for combining the display message data signal with a video signal decoded from the second compressed digital video signal to generate a combined video signal for display. As such, it also does not disclose or suggest combining means for combining a stored message signal representative of the display message data signal with a video signal decoded from the second compressed digital video signal to generate a combined video signal for display.

Although Ishii discloses that the recording time-of-date can be displayed during the playback of a recorded program, Ishii does not disclose or suggest that a stored message signal in the VTR (relied upon as the receiver device) representing the recording time-of-date data (relied upon as display message data signal) from the tape (relied upon as the local source) is combined with the video signal decoded from the second compressed digital video signal from the tape. As such, Ishii also does not disclose or suggest the combining means as recited in amended claim 5.

In light of the fact that Yoshinobu and Ishii, considered singly and in combination, do not disclose or suggest a receiving device receiving and decoding compressed digital signals, comprising means for combining a stored message signal representative of a display message data signal from a local source with a video signal decoded from a compressed digital video signal from the local source to generate a combined video signal for display, claim 5, and dependent claims 6-10, are patentable over Yoshinobu and Ishii.

Furthermore, claim 7 recites that the said local source is a digital reproduction apparatus and said display message data signal represents an operating mode of said digital reproduction apparatus. By contrast, claims 9, 10, and 13 in Yoshinobu, relied upon in the Office Action, are concerned with the display of program

information extracted from received broadcast wave signals and program information related to recorded program signals. This information does not represent an operating mode of a digital reproduction apparatus because it is the information of a broadcast program, such as the duration of a broadcast program. Although Ishii discloses the display of the recording time-of-date of a recorded program during playback, the recording time-of-date does not indicate an operating mode of a digital reproducing apparatus. As such, amended claim 7 is patentable over Yoshinobu and Ishii for this reason alone.

Furthermore, claim 8 recites that the receiving device includes delay means connected to the control means for delaying transmission of the message data signal to the means for combining. The Office Action relies upon FIGs. 20 and 21 of Yoshinobu as disclosing the delay means. However, the OSDs referred to in FIG. 20 and shown in FIGs. 17-19 cannot be interpreted as the display message signal because the OSD data are extracted from the packet 24, not from the minidisk (relied upon as the local source). See col. 28, lines 49-55. Since FIG. 21 does not disclose or suggest that the transmission of displaying recorded content read from UTOC at step S21 is delayed, Ishii also does not disclose or suggest such delay means. As such, claim 8 is patentable over the two references for this reason alone.

Regarding claim 1, applicants have amended claim 1 to recite that the status message signal indicative of an operating mode of the digital reproducing apparatus is synchronized for display with the decoded video signal. As discussed above with respect to claim 7, neither Yoshinobu nor Ishii disclose or suggest generating or displaying a display message indicative of operating mode of a digital video reproduction apparatus. As such, amended claim 1, and dependent claims 2-4 and 11-18, are patentable over the two references for this reason alone.

Furthermore, even interpreting (but without admitting the point) that the OSD messages in Yoshinobu and Ishii as status message signals indicative of an operating mode of the digital reproducing apparatus, Yoshinobu and Ishii, considered singly and in combination, do not disclose or suggest that an OSD message is synchronized for display with the decoded video signal. For example, in the prior art, a VTR may display a status message signal indicating that the VTR is in a playback mode before the VTR displays any video signal, without synchronizing the display of the status message signal with the display of the video signal.

In light of the fact that Yoshinobu and Ishii does not disclose or suggest a digital apparatus for reproducing a digital video representative signal stored on a

recorded medium connected to a receiving device including a decoder, the apparatus comprising a generator generating a status message signal indicative of an operating mode of the apparatus, and a display message combiner for combining the status message signal with a decoded video signal decoded from a compressed digital video signal bit stream from a recorded medium, wherein the status message signal is synchronized for display with the decoded video signal, applicants submit that claim 1, and dependent claims 2-4 and 11-18 are patentable over Yoshinobu and Ishii.

New Claims

Claims 19 and 20 are added, directly or indirectly depending from claim 13, which directly depends from claim 1. Support for the features can be found, for example, on page 6, lines 26-29, page 7, lines 32-35, and page 8, lines 3-8 and 15-18. The new claims are patentable over the two references for their direct or indirect dependence from claim 1. Furthermore, the two references, considered singly or in combination, do not disclose or suggest that the status message signal indicative of an operating mode, such as play is displayed at least one frame period after either when a status message signal has been generated or when a signal has been received by the generator to generate the status message signal. As such, claims 19 and 20 are patentable for this reason alone.

Conclusion

Having fully addressed the Examiner's objections and rejections it is believed that, in view of the preceding amendments and remarks, this application stands in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited. If, however, the Examiner is of the opinion that such action cannot be taken, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicant's attorney at (609) 734-6813, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled.

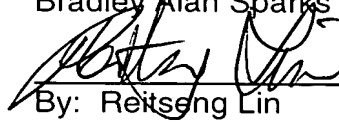
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Fee

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